

were when the District Attorney arrived busy getting out the dead and trying to fix the cause of the fire.

Judge Whitman met Capt. Hayes of the West Twentieth street station in front of the factory building. Capt. Hayes took him by the arm and led him to the sidewalk across the street. At a word from Hayes two policemen raised a tarpaulin that covered a dozen bodies.

"That tells the story, Judge," said Capt. Hayes.

There were the bodies of women and men who had jumped from the tenth and ninth floors. Some of them had been so terribly burned that it was impossible to tell what they had looked like alive. Others, little burned, were crushed from the terrible impact of a 100 foot drop on the concrete sidewalk.

As Judge Whitman turned away Chief Croker came up and told him that the greatest surprise was that such a loss of life hadn't occurred before in factory fires in Manhattan. The Chief and Judge Whitman conferred for fifteen minutes and as a result Croker will prepare for the District Attorney and the Grand Jury a statement of his knowledge of similar conditions in loft buildings where hundreds of women workers are closely packed in the neighborhood of combustible material.

At this time, 6:30 o'clock, nearly two hours after the fire started, the Coroners hadn't arrived. The police and firemen were angry because of this tardiness. Men had been telephoning for an hour and a half trying to get the Coroners there so the bodies could be removed. Judge Whitman, hearing of the delay, went to a phone and got Coroner Hellenstein. He insisted that the Coroners get to work quickly and advised Hellenstein to open the recreation pier at the foot of East Twenty-fifth street for the reception of bodies. And while the police waited for the Coroners the scorched and mutilated bodies of the shirtwaist makers were laid in rows on the sidewalk opposite from the building where they had been trapped.

The District Attorney suggested during the wait that the bodies be sent for. His request was followed immediately and when the Coroners showed up many of the bodies had been removed from the sidewalk and placed in wooden boxes ready to be sent to the Morgue and the temporary morgue at the recreation pier.

Go Slow About Arrests.

Then Judge Whitman had a talk with Deputy Police Commissioner Driscoll and Chief Inspector Schmittberger. The police wanted to make arrests. The District Attorney told them to go slowly, that persons who may have been responsible for conditions that resulted in such loss of life would not run away and that the procedure had best be accurate and complete. That was the position he took when Joseph Zito, the elevator boy who had made nearly twenty trips taking girls to the street from the upper floor while the building was burning, was arrested by order of Coroner Hellenstein.

The District Attorney talked to Zito, who is an intelligent young Italian that had worked six months in the building. The boy told a straightforward story, pausing now and then because of the pain a sprained ankle together with many bruises was giving him. In answer to the District Attorney's questions, he said that the fire started about 4:30 P. M., that there was an immediate rush of girls and men from the three upper floors occupied by the Triangle Shirt Waist Company that swamped the elevator and choked the stairways. He said he fought like a wildcat to keep his elevator going steadily and managed to take down nearly twenty loads before the fire broke through into the elevator shaft and drove him to the street.

Judge Whitman patted him on the back and told him that he seemed to have done a manly thing. Would he appear when he was wanted? The boy said he would and gave his address, 120 Macdougal street. Then District Attorney Whitman advised the Coroner to let Zito go on his parole, and the Coroner complied.

In the course of the next hour the District Attorney, searching for the facts as collected, talked to Deputy Chief Binnis, Deputy Commissioner Driscoll, Chief Inspector Schmittberger, Inspector John Daly, Capt. Hayes and employees of the building. The District Attorney concluded that since there was no prima facie evidence of crime that arrests would be unnecessary until after the Coroner's inquest.

The officials to whom the District Attorney talked gave him this notion of the situation before and during the fire: The ten story building, of which the three top floors were occupied by the Triangle concern, was considered fireproof. As a matter of fact the fire did comparatively little damage.

There were upward of 2,000 women and men, the large majority being young girls—Italians, Irish and Greeks, and some Jews, who worked on 1,500 waist machines on those three floors. After the big shirtwaist strike most of the Jewish women who had been employed previously were discharged or did not come back to work, and Italian, Irish and Greek women were substituted for them.

There seemed to have been an explosion of some sort which produced a great deal of smoke suddenly and gave the fire a rapid start. That resulted almost instantly in a panic—everybody rushing pell mell for the stairways and the two elevators that were in use at the time. When the elevators stopped, the crowd and the stairways choked those unfortunate women whose clothing had already caught fire. They were pushed out by the press of the crowd behind them.

There was only one fire escape in the building and that was an inner escape wholly incapable of serving many people at a time.

So far as could be learned there was no sprinkler system in operation, and nothing was done, possibly because of the lack of time and appliances, to get the fire under control before help came from the Fire Department.

The loss of life was about 150. Chief Croker while talking to the District Attorney said that fifty-five bodies had been accounted for as those of persons who had jumped or fallen from the top stories.

"But there were many bodies on all three floors," said the Chief, "many of them burned so as to be unidentifiable, and the floors are littered with bones burned to a char."

Deputy Chief Binnis reported to the District Attorney that there were at least fifty bodies on the ninth floor and more on the tenth and eighth floors. The deputy chief had found also that the bottom of the elevator shaft was piled with corpses, how many it was impossible to estimate—perhaps thirty-five at a guess.

So the District Attorney made an estimate of the loss from reports of fire and police chiefs at from 140 to 150.

It is the worst fire I ever had experience with," said Chief Croker to Judge Whitman. "It can be said that it is the worst fire New York ever had."

Before leaving the district Judge Whit-

man called on Assistant District Attorneys Robert H. Manley and Charles H. Bostwick and directed them to take charge of the investigation. The procedure in the inquiry as to responsibility for loss of life and as to whether the building fulfilled the requirements of the law as to construction and the safety of employees will be as follows:

There will be an inquest held by the Coroner as soon as possible, at which the District Attorney will be represented. Simultaneously the District Attorney will conduct an investigation of his own, summoning officials of the Fire Department, officials of the Building Department, the proprietor or proprietors of the building and employees of the building or of the Triangle Shirt Waist Company. Judge Whitman wanted it made plain that the inquiry is not to be directed by any means into the Fire Department, since it was the Building Department that was responsible for the condition of the place.

The third investigation will be by the Grand Jury, which will be supplied with whatever evidence the District Attorney collects.

The District Attorney was asked last night if he wanted to make a statement. He said:

"The investigation will be taken up in an orderly manner and conducted thoroughly.

"Chief Croker has told me such astonishing things in connection with the condition of hundreds of other loft buildings where women are closely packed and concerning office buildings that are not provided with fire escapes that I shall put the whole matter before the Grand Jury.

"It seems that a thorough inquiry along these lines is absolutely essential. If other so-called fireproof buildings lack fire escapes it is time that the public knew of it and time that some action should be taken. It seems that modern building science has got to the point where it can save property, but it doesn't seem to be able to save life. It is fireproof, but not deathproof."

The District Attorney was busy until late into the night conferring with his assistants and officials of the Police Department.

Croker on Fire Escapes.

Chief Croker while still directing the work of his men talked to reporters about the fire.

"It's just the kind of fire I've been expecting and predicting," he said. "At the present moment I can't see that any person is responsible. The blame lies with the law, or lack of it."

"That building is apparently well constructed and it is rated as fireproof. The law does not require fireproof buildings to have fire escapes and you observe that there are no fire escapes on the front of this one. The only means of exit aside from the stairs are elevators. On the eighth floor there is a balcony. A balcony at the rear is a perpendicular iron ladder with a small balcony covering two windows on each floor—the old fashioned type of fire escape. From the ninth floor to the roof that ladder is now hanging away from the wall. What caused that I can't say. The heat, maybe."

"The stairways are still good. If there hadn't been a panic it seems to me that many persons might have descended that way and saved their lives."

"Last fall," continued Croker, "I repeated at a hearing that all factory, business, loft and office buildings, whether rated as fireproof or not, should have adequate fire escapes. My idea was that outside each floor there should be a very ample balcony affording access from six or eight windows and that the balconies should be connected by regular stairs, not ladders. The stairs should be wide enough for two persons to go down abreast, I said, and should be equipped with hand rails. With such a system persons trying to get out of a burning building would find it just like running down stairs in their own homes."

"My views were criticised. Architects asserted that fire escapes such as I had in mind for the front of buildings would spoil their appearance."

Chief Croker was asked at this point if the report was true that twenty or thirty bodies had been found on top of one of the elevators. The chief said he thought twenty-five or thirty bodies would be taken from the foot of the air shaft on which was the ladder fire escape he had spoken of and that maybe some would be found in the cellar when the water had subsided.

It was learned later that the fire escape ladder to which Chief Croker had referred extended down from the roof to the second floor, where it ended at a balcony covering two windows. Apparently there was no drop ladder that could be let down the rest of the way in case of emergency. Beneath the balcony is the slanting roof of a small shed. If a person dropped to the shed and rolled down he would drop two stories to the level of the subcellar and take his chances on landing on an iron fence two feet high. Persons in the building taken from the foot of the air shaft on which was the ladder fire escape he had spoken of and that maybe some would be found in the cellar when the water had subsided.

Fire Marshal William L. Beers said he had no statement to make except that there would be a careful investigation and that subpoenas would be issued for everybody who might tell anything of value about the cause of the fire or how the safety of the employees was protected.

Holtzhauser Examines Escapes.

Coroner Holtzhauser made an investigation of the exits of the building and said that the blame rested on the building Department for not requiring that fire escapes be installed. He said that there was only one fire escape on the building, and that let down on a court. The Coroner said this means of escape was entirely inadequate.

"Look around these buildings in this neighborhood," he said, "and you'll see a lot of fire fronts—and not a fire escape in sight."

The Coroner announced that he would institute proceedings against the Building Department at once to determine whether any of its officials could be held responsible for the loss of life.

Tenants of the Building.

The building in which the fire occurred is known as the Asch Building and is owned by Joseph J. Asch, who lives in South Norwalk, Conn., and who is at present in Palm Beach, Fla. The building is ten years old. It is occupied on the ground floor by the Hatters Fur Exchange, Martin Bates, Jr., & Co., hatters, and Stern, Katzstein & Co., dealers in linings. Berentien & Meyer, dealers in cloaks and suits, occupied the second floor. On the fourth floor was the firm of Harris Bros., dealers in men's clothing. Morris Blum, clothing specialties, occupied the fifth floor; the sixth was vacant; the seventh was taken up by the firm of Meyers, Crown & Wallack, a clothing firm, and the Triangle Waist Company occupied the remaining floors. The agents for the owner of the building are Heil & Stern of 1165 Broadway.

The last available tax assessment list

gives the owners of the building as J. and J. Asch. The property is described as 100.8 feet by 100 feet, and the value placed upon it by the city was \$475,000.

Superintendent Miller Out of Town.

Rudolph P. Miller, Superintendent of Buildings, is in the South on a vacation. When last heard from by those at his home, 141 East Forty-third street, two weeks ago he was in Panama. The assistant superintendent, W. Rogers Westerfield, left his home at 40 West 127th street shortly after 6 o'clock last night when news of the fire was brought to him and started downtown Alfred Ludwig of 16 East Twenty-eighth street, acting superintendent, is chief inspector of buildings in the same department.

Mr. Ludwig refused to talk to reporters in his office at midnight last night. He said that he had had orders from Borough President McAneny not to talk until he had seen in his report to that official.

Acting Superintendent of Buildings Alfred G. Ludwig, who said earlier in the evening that he had been instructed by Borough President McAneny not to talk about the Asch Building, was interviewed about midnight. He said that the original plans for the building were inspected by Thomas J. Brady, then Superintendent of Buildings, on July 13, 1900. The plans, Mr. Ludwig said, provided for what he called one inside fire escape, the lower end of which rested on a skylight thirty feet from the ground. The records show, Mr. Ludwig said, that the architect was told to change the plans to make the fire escape extend to the ground, and that after the change was made the Building Department approved them.

The building was completed on January 15, 1901, according to Mr. Ludwig, and there is no record of its having been inspected since then.

Asked about a rumor that the Asch building was one of those about which the Fire Department complained to the Building Department last summer, Mr. Ludwig said there was no record of it at the Building Department offices so far as he knew. He said that under the rules of the department there should be two stairways for 3,000 square feet of floor space. The Asch building has 10,000 feet to a floor and two stairways. If the department were asked to pass on the plans to-day, said Mr. Ludwig, the only change insisted upon would be an extra stairway.

The stairways in such a building are required to be enclosed by four inch walls of terra cotta, and Mr. Ludwig said that so far as he could discover this had been done. On each floor there must be self-closing fireproof doors which are required to be kept unlocked. Mr. Ludwig said that he found doors on several floors that were locked. He added that there were no fireproof doors such as required on the building although there were such stairs on the northeast corner.

Building Not Satisfactory.

Deputy Fire Commissioner O'Keefe said at the scene of the fire last night that within the last three months the Fire Department had reported to the Building Department and to the Tenement House Commission that the building was not satisfactory to the Fire Department because of the insufficiency of the exits.

The Deputy Commissioner made the statement to one of two men whose conversation he overheard as he was standing at the corner of Greene street and Washington place. One of the men, who later introduced himself to O'Keefe as a Coroner—Coroner Holtzhauser was at the scene of the fire at the time—had remarked, it is said, that there were 150 dead and that "it is up to the Fire Department."

O'Keefe introduced himself and contradicted the speaker. He said that when the Fire Department reported the matter to the proper authorities it had done all that it could do.

Chief Croker said last night that the Asch Building was as fire proof as any building could be and that it had stood the fire as well as could be expected, and the floors had not fallen and the stairs stood well.

There is no law that requires fireproof buildings to have fire escapes, but the Asch building had one small escape.

The orders in regard to fire escapes and the like must come from the Tenement House Commission and the Building Department, as the jurisdiction of the Fire Department ceases with the handing in of reports to those bodies.

Miss Brestwood's Investigations.

Fire conditions in New York factories are appalling, Miss E. H. Brestwood, who is connected with the Board of Sanitary Control and has made investigations into the condition of working women, said last night. In few factories are there outward swinging doors and in many cases the exits open on courts where a fire would cut off every chance of escape.

"Last fall I was with the Consumers League," said Miss Brestwood last night, "and worked in the Triangle Waist Company. I was on the tenth floor, where the pressing department was and where the shirtwaists were pressed after being put together. We worked at long tables which were jammed close to one another, and it was hard for us to get about. We occupied about a third of the tenth floor, but the rest of that floor was very much cluttered up with tables and piles of boxes and such things. I remember in going to the water cooler to get a drink it was hard to get through. I can very easily understand how a panic would have rendered the girls helpless."

In other investigations that I have made I have found that in New York factories I visited I found only one where the doors opened out, as they should, and this fact out to be known to the fire inspectors. Why nothing was done in that matter I can't understand, for when there is a panic women or men pack against such doors and they become hopelessly wedged. I also found in my investigations that the fire escapes in many cases lead to an inside court and in case of a serious fire would be a death trap rather than any help to get out."

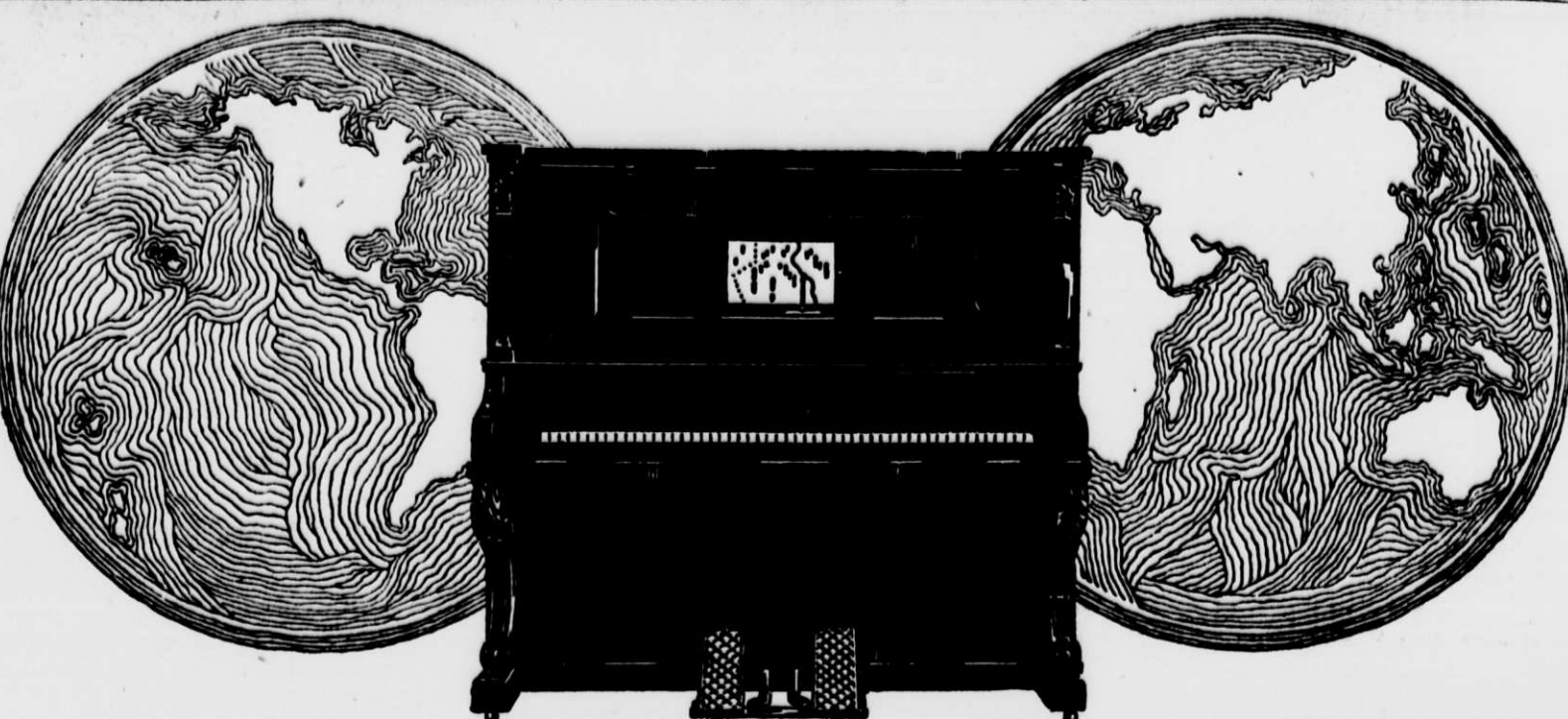
FLOOR COLLAPSE KILLS THREE.

Employees in Store Hurtled Under Tons of Debris.

Three men were killed yesterday by the collapse of an overweighted floor in the hay and feed store of William Gleichen at 214 Howard avenue, Brooklyn. They were William Campbell, of 187 McDougal street, William Campbell, of 204 Fulton street and John Franey, who lived at 253 Howard avenue. All were crushed under the weight of several hundred tons of hay, straw and oats.

Gleichen got the feed Friday and yesterday morning half a dozen men were set to work hoisting it to the upper floors. The second floor, which had been built, was being finished at noon. The three men went out to lunch while Brown, Campbell and Franey remained behind. They were working together in the rear of the place the second floor gave way with-out any warning.

An alarm of fire was turned in in order to bring the firemen and the reserves from the police station. The police and firemen were also turned out. Firemen and police men cleared away the debris. Nearly an hour elapsed before the three men were found. They had probably been killed outright.



The Pianola Piano Has Stamped the Impress of its Superiority Upon the Face of the Globe

What is the Secret of the Aeolian Company's World-Wide Success?

WE WERE asked this question recently by a gentleman who had just returned from an extended tour of the world.

He said, "Everywhere I went I found the Pianola Piano. In some Countries, notably France and Germany, it was the only player-piano in evidence. I made inquiries from friends and was told that other American player-pianos had been introduced, but that the people of these Countries were keenly critical in matters pertaining to music. That these other instruments had failed to satisfy, and, therefore, efforts to sell them had ceased."

"In Australia, I visited Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide, and in each city I found one of your branch houses.

"Returning through Europe, in Madrid, Berlin, Paris and London I found that the leading music stores were the branches maintained by your Company.

"An Englishman who was acquainted with the industry, told me that although you had been established in England less than a dozen years, your Company did the largest musical instrument business in Great Britain. This, in spite of the fact that there were other houses that dated back for more than a century."

All this shows splendid initiative, but it shows something more—something far greater,—what is it?

The secret of the wonderful growth and development of the Aeolian Company is not far to seek. The measure of its success is but the reflection of the superior merit of its instruments.

The underlying cause for the great volume of business done by this house throughout the

world, lies in the superb quality manifest in such instruments as—

The Steinway Pianola Piano
The Weber Pianola Piano
The Steck Pianola Piano
The Wheelock Pianola Piano
The Stuyvesant Pianola Piano
The Technola Piano
The Famous Pianola
The Weber Piano
The Steck Piano
The Wheelock Piano
The Stuyvesant Piano
The Stroud Piano
The Aeolian Orchestral
The Aeolian Pipe Organ

The distinguished character of these, the Aeolian Company's instruments, together with this Company's unvarying policy of fair, liberal dealing—its ability to offer greater value for the money than it is possible to obtain from any other source—And a system of selling that guarantees one price—the lowest—to every purchaser—these are the secrets, if secrets they are, of the Aeolian Company's success.

The Pianola Piano

The Piano and the Pianola Incorporated
In one case. Equally available for playing by hand or with the Pianola music roll.

Steinway Pianola Piano... \$1250 to \$1500
Weber Pianola Piano... 950 to 1150
Steck Pianola Piano... 850 to 950
Wheelock Pianola Piano... 700 to 800
Stuyvesant Pianola Piano... 550 to 700

Grand Pianola Pianos

The Steinway Grand Pianola Piano... \$2000 to \$2250
The Weber Grand Pianola Piano... 1800
The Steck Grand Pianola Piano... 1500

The Technola Piano, \$450
Superior to any player-piano on the market, save only the Pianola Piano.

The Pianola, \$250
A separate cabinet attachment to fit any piano.

Pianos

(Without the Pianola)

Weber Uprights... \$600 up
Weber Grands... 750 "
Steck Uprights... 425 "
Steck Grands... 600 "
Wheelock Uprights... 325 "
Stuyvesant Uprights... 275 "
The New Stroud Upright... 250

Moderate Monthly Payments New Pianos for Rent A Complete Stock of Victor Talking Machines and Records
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The Largest Manufacturers of Musical Instruments in the World
Near 34th St., N. Y.

STRIKE STARTED THERE.

Shirtwaist Makers Had Complained to the Union of Triangle Shop Conditions.

William Mally, business manager of the Ladies' Waist Makers Union, with headquarters at 151 Clinton street, said last night that the waist makers' strike of a year ago had started in the shop of the Triangle Waist Company because of the conditions that had prevailed there. He said that several attempts had been made before the strike to unionize the shop, but that they were all unsuccessful and that it was only when a strike was called that a union was formed among the employees of that place.

After the failure of the strike the shop was again made an open one and remained open, although there were many women members of the union employed there. Mr. Mally said that these members of his union had reported to him that conditions there were very bad and that there was a rule that the doors of the place be kept closed during working hours. He said that his union would start an investigation to-day as to the causes that led to the fire. The offices of the union will be kept open to receive the evidence of those who were in the fire.

This evidence will be placed in the hands of the lawyer for the union. Mr. Mally also said that a relief fund had been started by the union for the families of those lost in the fire.

POLICE STATION MORDED.

Great Rush of the Distracted to Mercer Street—Survivors Came In.

A crowd of 200 crying mothers, sisters and other relatives of the factory workers came rushing pell mell to the Mercer street police station. The door had to be shut on the crowd. The doorman lined the men and women up by twos. They were told to give the names of those they sought and then go to the Morgue.

Mention of the Morgue made the women hysterical. A policeman opened the door of the section room to come out. In a wink half the crowd had burst into the patrolmen's sitting room looking for bodies. There were none there, as they soon saw. The police reformed the lines. The first attack on the station house came at 6 o'clock. More women kept

coming after that. They screamed and beat their foreheads on the desk rail.

Gussie Horowitz, who was a tucker in the cutting department of the factory on the eighth floor and who lives at 155 Seventh street, came to the police station. She said that she had seen a blaze in the stretching department, also on the eighth floor, about 4:45 o'clock, which is quitting time on Saturday. Some of the men saw the blaze and grabbed buckets of water. The manager, Sam Bernstein, rushed to the telephone.

There was panic directly. All of the men and girls made for the stairs in the Greene street hallway. There were only freight elevators on the Greene street side of the building.

The ninth floor, where the operators worked, was where most of those who jumped leaped from.

On the flights of stairs the employees had a mad, scrambling, pulling time. Gussie Horowitz got down unhurt. She had come to the police station to inquire after her brother, Morris, who also worked in the cutting department.

A girl, Rose Katz, grabbed Gussie's arm.

"Are you looking for your brother? He's all right. He came down with me and he's at my home now."

Max Rothen of 91 Washington avenue, The Bronx, in the jam at the police station started to give his version of what had happened:

"I was fixing my machine to quit," he began. "I am a cutter. I saw a blaze over in the stretching department and..."

A man rushed up and hauled Max out of the station house and far away.

"That's the manager, Sam Bernstein, nabbed him," said several around.

WIRELESS HALF ROUND EARTH.

Kite Apparatus Hears Cornwall, England and Otchishai, Japan.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 25.—Notable achievements in wireless telegraphy are reported by a party that conducted experiments in receiving messages with the aid of high flying kites on a beach near the Golden Gate last night. The experimenters say they heard distinctly calls from San Juan, Porto Rico, Washington, Key West, Brooklyn navy yard, Colon, Guamanamo and the station at Otchishai, Japan, which is 4,900 miles away.

They also detected an indistinct Marconi spark which they believe was sent from Cornwall, England, a distance of 6,500 miles.

The receiving aeriels were strung between two pairs of sixteen foot kites,

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Announcement of New Silks Exclusive Colors and Designs

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Many of the above materials being shown in new model gowns
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ANNOUNCES

the resumption of GREENPORT and the HAMPTONS EXPRESS TRAINS 220 and 20

Commencing April 1st, leaving New York (Pennsylvania Station) 9:32; Brooklyn (Flatbush Avenue Station) 9:56 P. M. for Greenport and the Hamptons.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

TRINITY CHAPEL, West 23rd st., near Broadway. Rev. JOHN MCKINSTRY, Vicar.—Sunday services: Holy Communion, 8 and 11; Evensong, 4. Week-day services, 9 and 4.

which rose to a height estimated at 1,500 feet. Reports of the experiments are being prepared to-day for transmission to the War Department, together with suggestions for the use of such apparatus for the detection of the distant activities of enemies.

DIED.

KNOX.—On Friday, March 24, at the residence of her brother, 606 West 123rd st., Mary Alice Knox of Briarcliff Manor.

Funeral services will be held in the chapel of Union Theological Seminary, Claremont av., 121st st., at half past 3 o'clock on Sunday, March 26.

LATTE.—Harry Latte, funeral from "The Funeral Home," 241 and 243 West 23rd st. (FRANK E. CAMPBELL BLDG.).

REED.—Suddenly, on Saturday, March 25, at his residence, 76 West 66th st., Charles B. Reed.

Funeral private.

SINCLAIR.—At her residence, 611 West 111th st., on March 24, 1911, Elizabeth T. Sinclair, widow of Napoleon B. Sinclair, in the 69th year of her age; formerly of 664 Hancock st., Brooklyn.

Funeral services and interment private.

UNDERTAKERS.

FRANK E. CAMPBELL, 241-243 W. 23d St. Chapels. Ambulance Service. Tel. 1234 Chelsea.